

EVERYDAY FAITH, CULTURAL PRESSURES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Everyday faith means continually resisting the cultural narratives and social structures which inscribe individualism, inequality and prejudice, and idolise productivity, efficiency, and personal success.



**THE WEAK
GET EATEN**

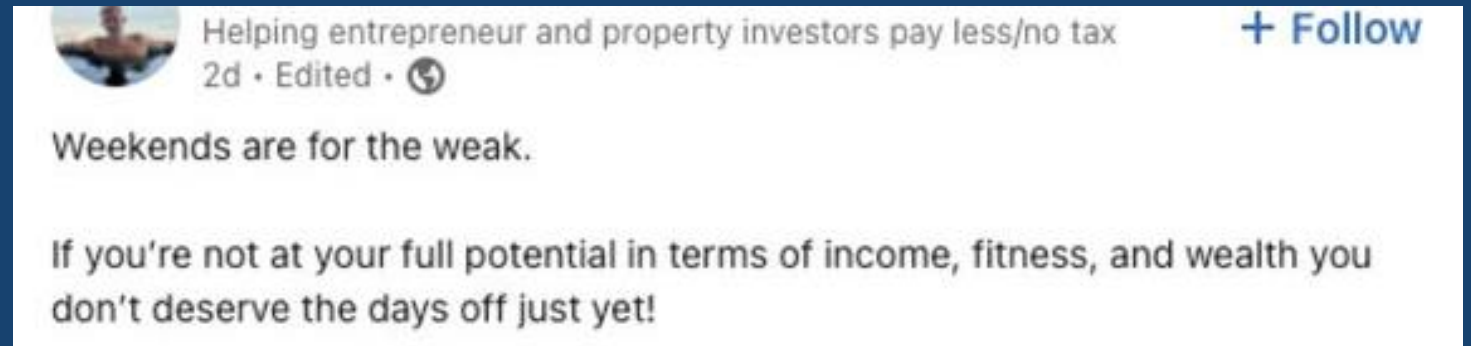
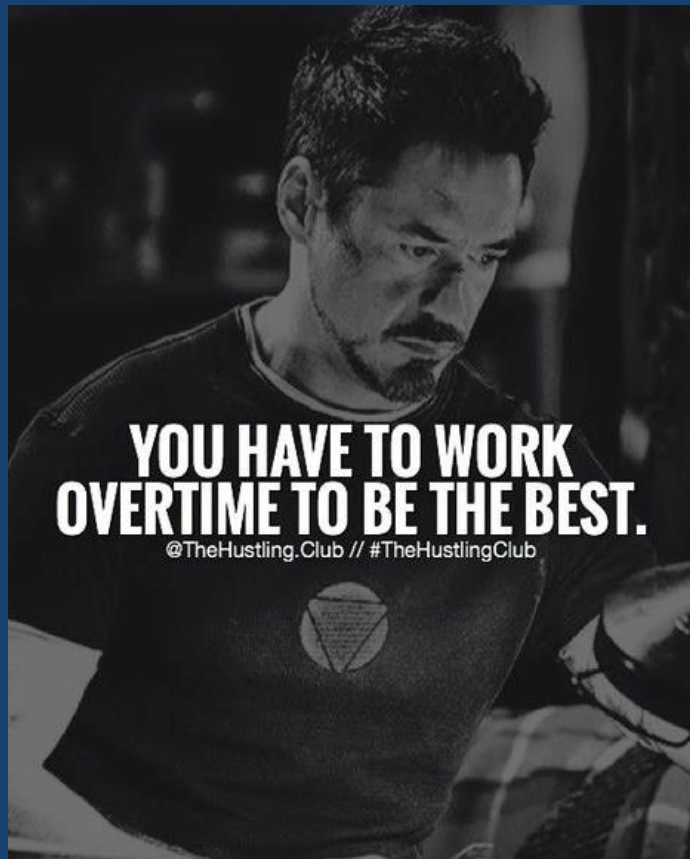


#HUSTLEINSPIRESHUSTLE™

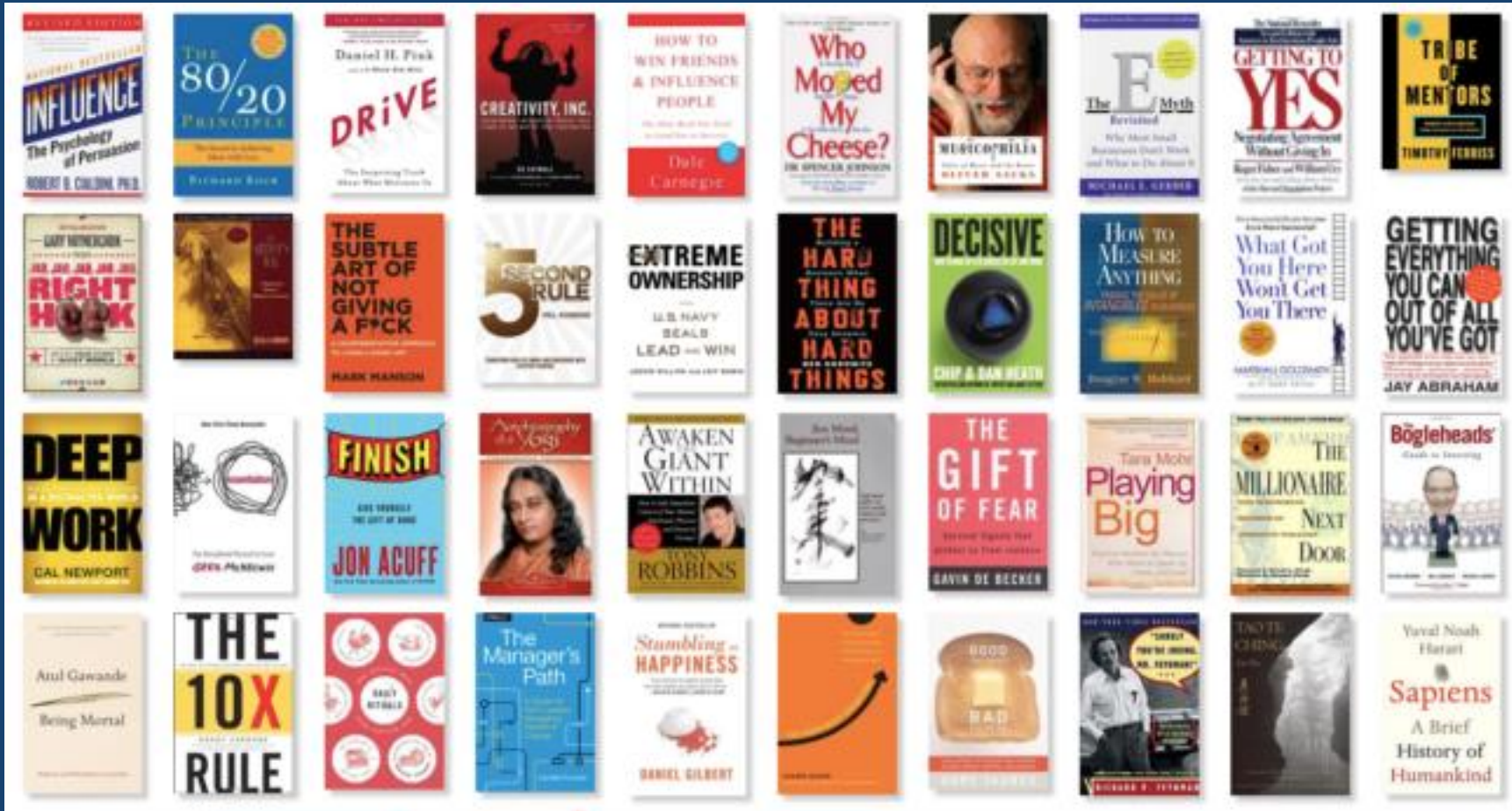
Pressure to be beautiful



Pressure to be productive



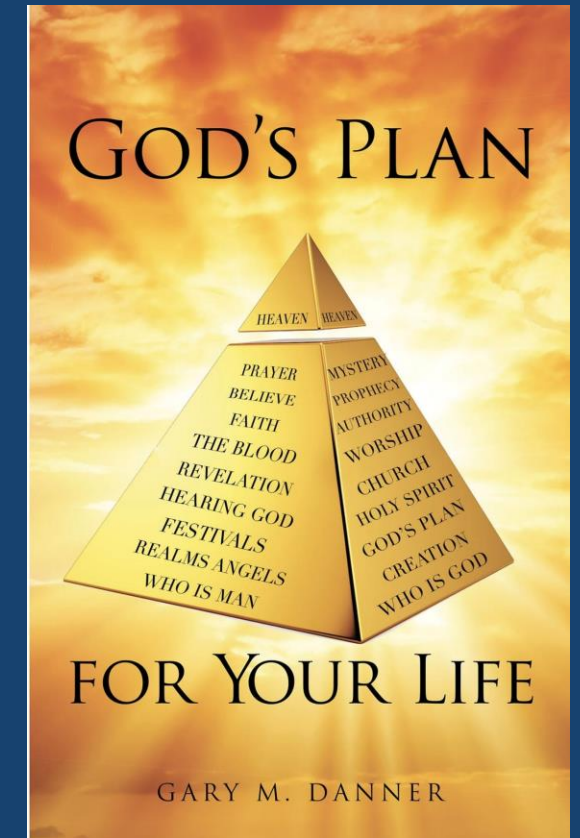
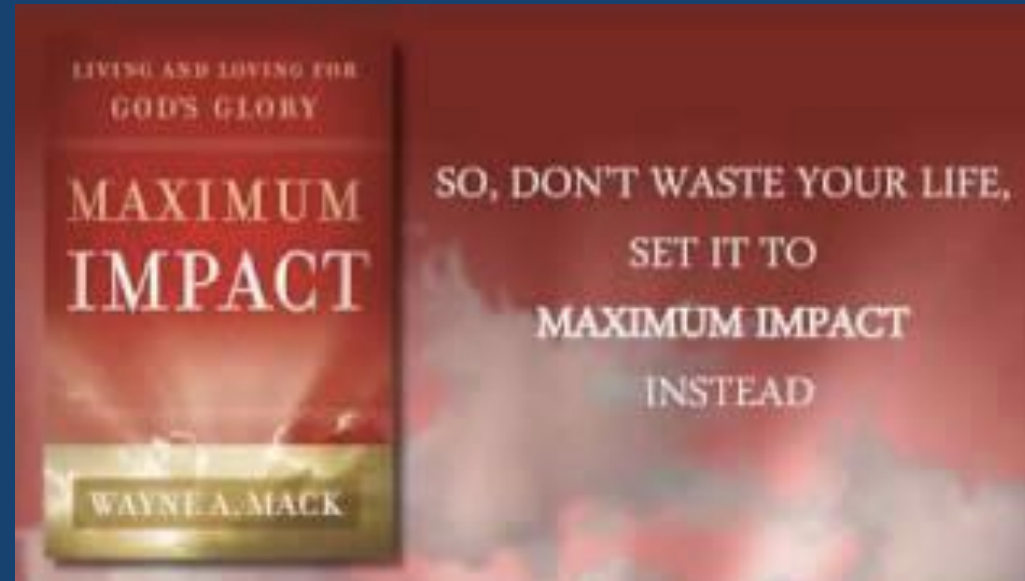
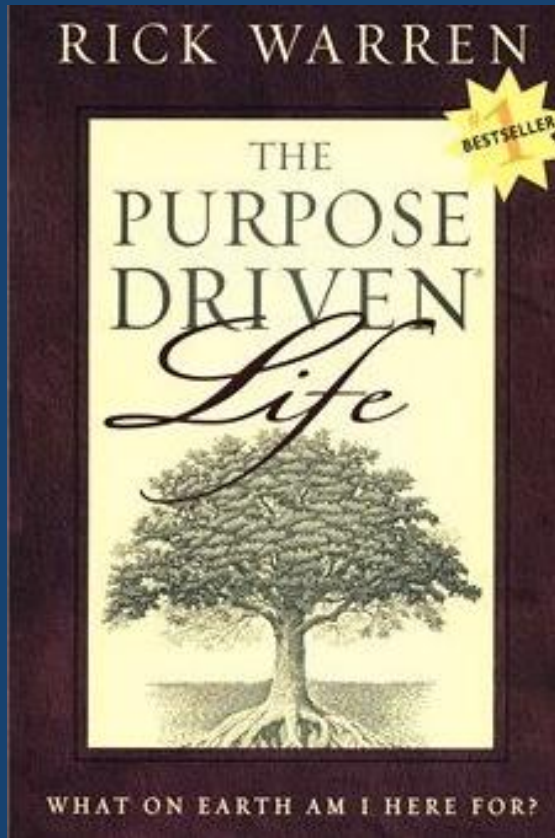
Pressure to have control - personally



Pressure to have control - nationally



Pressure to be a perfect Christian



Conventional hierarchies are overturned in the Kingdom of God

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

Matthew 18:1-5

“You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20: 25-28

“Many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.”

Mark 10:31

Where weakness is strength

[God] said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ [...] I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Philippians 3:1-10

And blessing is neither deserved nor hedonistic

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Luke 1:46–55



To practice faith everyday, I need a community which models the topsy-turvy Kingdom

This...	...Not this
Sacrament of the present moment	Productivity and efficiency
Just one part of the Body of Christ	Personal brand
Good news for the spiritually and materially poor	Quid pro quo faith
Actively sharing power, gifts, joys and burdens	Tokenism, paternalism or individualism
Practices acceptance of finitude and limitations	Word of faith/ Prosperity gospel
Grace from start to finish	Salvation by right beliefs, reading lists, and lifestyle

Questions for Reflection

- Does this sound like your worshipping community? In what respects yes or no?
- Do you as a community struggle to resist any of the narratives or pressures described? Which ones and why?
 - Think about your preaching, pastoral care, governance, finance, children's ministry, which groups are represented in your congregation and which aren't, and relationships with the wider community.
- What would taking a stronger stand against these pressures look like?
- What does it mean to you to pursue faithfulness over achievement?